

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Kim Ch'aek Iron Works	DATE DISTR.	10 November 1955
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1. The Kim Ch'aek Iron Works in Sapong-dong, Ch'ongjin, presently employs about 4,000 people.¹ A Self-defense Force, composed of about 60 men armed with Russian-made rifles, guards the foundry area which contains warehouses for storing raw materials and finished products.
2. The raw material for the production of pig iron is mined at the Musan Mine² in North Hamgyong Province and transported to the iron foundry by rail. In addition to pig iron, the Kim Ch'aek Iron Works produces fire bricks, coking coal and coal by-products such as coal tar, benzol, naphthalene and crude oil.³

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] there were 4,000 more employees at the Kim Ch'aek Iron Works [redacted] the USSR was furnishing both material and technical assistance for its rehabilitation.

2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the greater part of the 200 million metric tons of low-grade iron ore (34 percent iron) reserves in North Korea are in the Musan mine, [redacted] 1,100 laborers and 30 mechanics are employed at the installation and [redacted] Russian technicians and electricians inspect three times monthly.

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3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the one furnace of the foundry was not expected to be repaired until the end of 1956. According to a broadcast from P'yongyang, however, No. 1 blast furnace was put into operation [redacted] and two months later was producing 500 tons of pig iron daily. [redacted] the North Korean press reported that a furnace of 20-ton capacity was reconstructed [redacted] to be followed by the completion of one of 500-ton capacity by [redacted] A broadcast [redacted] claimed that the blast furnace and coke oven were producing 140 percent of pre-war capacity.

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